

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF
TOLEDO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the City of Toledo's 100th birthday. For a century this Oregon town has stood on the shores of Yaquina Bay at the foot of Oregon's Coast Range.

From the beginning Toledo grew and prospered because of the area's abundant natural resources, and timber has long provided the economic base for the community. In its early days, many small sawmills processed the surrounding lumber while the closely located waterways provided easy transport. World War I brought the U.S. Army Signal Corps to Toledo to build a large sawmill and logging railroads into the woods, providing the small town the infrastructure to harvest the nearby stands of spruce and fir. Today, Georgia-Pacific's factory in Toledo remains one of the largest employers in Lincoln County, and Plum Creek Timber continues to manage timberlands in the Coast Range to ensure that timber will remain an abundant resource in Toledo's future.

Toledo has seen a lot in its 100 years. It has faced many changes, yet throughout it all, it is still thriving, ready to face another century. So, Mr. Speaker, I stand before you on this 17th day of February, 2005 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Toledo and convey my warmest regards to its residents.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF STEPHEN
LEITER

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the tragic and untimely passing of Stephen Leiter who was an outstanding attorney and business leader in the Long Island community. Most importantly, however, Steve Leiter was a close friend to me and countless other Long Island residents.

I had the privilege of knowing Steve Leiter and his wife Glenda for more than thirty years. During that time I always marveled how Steve could be so active in so many businesses, community, political and sports endeavors, be a loving husband and father, and still have so much time for his friends.

Steve Leiter was extraordinarily successful in his professional life, but even more so in his personal friendships. He was always there for those who needed him and he always had a ready smile and warm greeting for you.

I express my sincere condolences to Steve's widow Glenda, his son David, who worked for me several years ago, and his daughter Lindsay. As tragic as Steve's passing is, I hope that Glenda, David and Lindsay will find consolation in the knowledge that Steve Leiter's memory will be cherished by so many. May he rest in peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CITIZENS
INVOLVEMENT IN CAMPAIGNS
(CIVIC) ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, Rep. PAUL KANJORSKI and I are introducing bipartisan legislation to establish a program of limited tax credits and tax deductions to get average Americans more involved in the political process. This bill, the Citizens Involvement in Campaigns (CIVIC) Act, will broaden the base of political contributors and limit the influence of big money donors in federal elections.

We need to take a fresh look at innovative approaches to campaign finance reform, with special attention paid to ideas that encourage, and not restrict, greater participation in our campaigns. Toward this end, I have been advocating tax credits and deductions for small political contributions for many years. An updated tax credit system would be a simple and effective means of balancing the influence of big money donors and bringing individual contributors back to our campaigns. The impact of this counterweight will reduce the burden of raising money, as well as the appearance of impropriety that accompanies the money chase.

Most would agree that the ideal way to finance political campaigns is through a broad base of donors. But, as we are all painfully aware, the economic realities of modern-day campaigning lead many candidates to focus most of their efforts on collecting funds from a few large donors. This reality alienates many Americans from the political process.

The concept of empowering small donors is not a new idea. For example, from 1972 to 1986, the federal government offered a tax credit for small political contributions. This provided an incentive for average Americans to contribute to campaigns in small amounts while simultaneously encouraging politicians to solicit donations from a larger pool of contributors. Currently, six geographically and politically diverse states (Oregon, Minnesota, Ohio, Virginia, Arkansas, and Arizona) offer their own tax credits for political contributions. These state-level credits vary in many respects, but all share the same goal of encouraging average Americans to become more involved.

The CIVIC Act can begin the process of building this counterweight for federal elections. This bill is designed to encourage Americans who ordinarily do not get involved in politics beyond casting a vote every two or four years (that is, if they bother to vote at all) to become more active participants in our political process.

The CIVIC Act will reestablish and update the discontinued federal tax credit. Taxpayers can choose between a 100% tax credit for political contributions to federal candidates or national political parties (limited to \$200 per taxable year), or a 100% tax deduction (limited to \$600 per taxable year). Both limits, of course, are doubled for joint returns. As long as political parties and candidates promote the existence of these credits, the program can have a real impact and aid in making elections more grassroots affairs than they are now.

A limited tax credit for political contributions can be a bipartisan, cost-efficient method for

helping balance the influence of large money donors in the American electoral process. Instead of driving away most Americans from participation in political life, we can invite them in. It seems to me that this will be a fruitful way to clean up our system, while at the same time convincing Americans that they actually have a meaningful stake in elections.

HONORING NASHVILLE'S HISTORICALLY
BLACK COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I am honored today to pay tribute to Nashville's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, and Tennessee State University. These institutes of higher learning are among the more than 115 HBCU's across the United States. While originally founded to teach freed slaves to read and write, today they welcome and educate students from a wide range of races and ethnic backgrounds.

Fisk University's founding can be traced back to the days following the abolishment of slavery in America. Six months after the Civil War ended and two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, the first classes at Fisk University began on January 9, 1866. On this date, former slaves from the young to the very old openly began their quest for learning. No longer having to hide books that were forbidden to them, they could express their passion and enthusiasm for learning and pursue the path to true freedom and dignity . . . education. Since its inception, Fisk's faculty and alumni have been among the most intelligent, creative and civic-minded individuals in America. Amid its many graduates have been W.E.B. DuBois—the great writer, social critic and co-founder of the NAACP, and Booker T. Washington—the great educator and founder of Tuskegee University. Thurgood Marshall, who later became the first African-American Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, participated in the famous Fisk Race Relations Institute. Today, 68 percent of Fisk's attendees are African American.

During the reconstruction period in the United States, the health of poor Americans received little attention and Nashville had the worst mortality rate in the country. The most dismal health conditions were among the blacks who suffered disproportionately from death and disease. In October 1876, the Meharry Medical College was founded and established as the Meharry Medical Department of Central Tennessee College by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This college was formed to educate freed slaves and bring health care to the community's poor and underserved. Meharry has continued in that custom, and now is home to the Lloyd C. Elam Community Mental Health Center and the United States' first Institute on Health Care for the Poor and Underserved. Meharry is the largest private, historically black institution that is dedicated to educating healthcare professionals and biomedical scientists in America. Over-one-third of the black